



The View From the Forge : November 2007

Hello, my name is Peter Maugle, Park Ranger at Valley Forge National Historical Park. I'd like to welcome you to "The View from the Forge" – a monthly podcast of news and events from Valley Forge National Historical Park.

Valley Forge—the name is so familiar to us that we rarely think about where it came from. There *was* an iron forge here once, and it gave its name to a village and to one of the most important events in American history—the winter encampment at Valley Forge.

A new exhibit, *Forging a Nation*, tells the story of the forge, its destruction during a raid by the British Army, and its excavation by archeologists. Artifacts from the excavation are on display.

Please visit the stable next to Washington's Headquarters to see this small exhibit, which is open at no charge from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. You might want to combine your visit with a walk along Valley Creek to the site of the forge, and imagine a time when this quiet gorge was filled with industry and a thriving village.

Trolley Tours will resume during the holiday seasons. These 90 minute guided tours will depart the Welcome Center at 11am, 1pm, and 3pm. Join us November 23rd, 24th, and 25th, and on December 27th, 28th, 29th and 30th For reservations or for more information contact The Encampment Store at 610-783-1074.

A new exhibit of landscape and historical portrait photography opens at the Valley Forge NHP Welcome Center on November 15. The images are the work of Audubon artist and graphic designer Mike Ticcino. Park visitors will recognize the scenes but will be struck by the way the images lead us to understand familiar landscapes in new ways. *Valley Forge: Traditional Land, Contemporary Vision* is open every day from 9:00 to 5:00 and will run through the end of February. The Welcome Center is closed on Thanksgiving Day and Christmas day.

The 230th anniversary of the March-In of the Continental Army occurs in December. Visit the park for annual celebrations and events. Saturday December 15th and 16th from 1 – 3 pm, at the park's Welcome Center, children ages 6 – 12 are invited to take part in programs designed to engage their imagination. They will be able to build model log cabins, join a soldiers' march and visit the Muhlenberg Brigade to see log cabin construction in action.

On the evening of Wednesday, December 19, programs centering out of the Welcome Center will commemorate the actual date of the army's arrival with lantern-lit tours, period music, and a soldier encampment. From 6 to 8 pm, visitors will be taken on a lantern-lit guided tour along the Joseph Plumb Martin Trail to the Muhlenberg Brigade. There they can observe and interact with the troops as they prepare for the winter encampment. Throughout this celebration, the Encampment Store and the Friends of Valley Forge Park will offer free self-serve gift wrapping and complimentary holiday refreshments. Admission is free.

Valley Forge National Historical Park offers educational programs to enhance your students' academic experiences. Student participation is encouraged through use of the inquiry method and hands-on activities. There are free and fee based programs which can be reserved on weekdays from October through the end of May. For reservations call 610 783-1066. To schedule a program for your class, please call in advance.

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation announced that PECO Energy will close Route 23 between North Gulph Road and County Line Road at night beginning Sunday, October 28 for gas main installation. Crews will work nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. through December 21. During construction, Route 23 through-traffic will detour over County Line Road to the park Welcome Center parking lot and follow the detour signs through the parking lot back to Route 23. Motorists are advised to allow extra time when traveling through the construction zone.

In addition, portions of Innerline Drive will be closed starting in mid November. Contractors will be working to restore the historic stone laid gutter, replace failing culverts and drainage features, and mill and resurface the road.

That's all for this month's "View from the Forge." As always, for more information visit the park's website at www.nps.gov/vafo.

Please come back next month for a new edition of "The View from the Forge" and remember to look for our other podcasts on iTunes titled *Valley Forge History and Culture*, and *Valley Forge Nature and Science*.